Case 2:11-cv-02373-RB Document 1 Filed 04/05/11 Page 1 of 12 SJS 44 (Rev 12/07) The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.) **DEFENDANTS** I. (a) PLAINTIFFS PEEPLES, OSCAR PRESTIGE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, INC. (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>BURLINGTON</u> **BUCKS** County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Attorneys (If Known) Marc A. Weinberg, Esquire, Saffren & Weinberg (215)576-0100 815 Greenwood Avenue, Ste. 22, Jenkintown, PA 19046 III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) and One Box for Defendant) (For Diversity Cases Only) PTF ▼ 3 Federal Ouestion DEF PTF DEF ☐ 1 U.S. Government. Incorporated or Principal Place Citizen of This State **1** 4 **X** 4 (U.S. Government Not a Party)  $\Box$  1 Plaintiff of Business In This State 2 Incorporated and Principal Place **2** 2 **1** 5 D 5 1 2 U.S. Government □ 4 Diversity Citizen of Another State of Business In Another State Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) **3** Citizen or Subject of a 3 Foreign Nation D 6 D 6 Foreign Country NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) OTHER STATUTES CONTRACT TORTS FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 610 Agriculture 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 423 Withdrawal ☐ 620 Other Food & Drug 1 410 Antitrust CL 120 Marine 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury -315 Airplane Product Med Malpractice ☐ 625 Drug Related Scizure 28 USC 157 430 Banks and Banking CL 130 Miller Act 365 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 881 450 Commerce ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability ☐ 630 Liquor Laws 320 Assault, Libel & PROPERTY RIGHTS 460 Deportation ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment Product Liability ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck & Enforcement of Judgmen Slander 368 Asbestos Personal 820 Copyrights 470 Racketeer Influenced and 330 Federal Employers' 650 Airline Regs. ☐ 830 Patent ☐ 151 Medicare Act Injury Product Corrupt Organizations ☐ 840 Trademark 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability Liability ☐ 660 Occupational PERSONAL PROPERTY Student Loans 340 Marine Safety/Health 490 Cable/Sat TV 690 Other (Excl. Veterans) 345 Marine Product 370 Other Fraud 810 Selective Service Liability ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment 371 Truth in Lending LABOR SOCIAL SECURITY 850 Securities/Commodities/ of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle 380 Other Personal 710 Fair Labor Standards 3 861 HIA (1395ff) Exchange ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) 160 Stockholders' Suits 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage 875 Customer Challenge Act ☐ 190 Other Contract Product Liability 385 Property Damage 720 Labor/Mgmt Relations 5 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 12 USC 3410 360 Other Personal Product Liability ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt Reporting ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI 890 Other Statutory Actions 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise Injury & Disclosure Act ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) 891 Agricultural Acts CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS FEDERAL TAX SUITS REAL PROPERTY 740 Railway Labor Act 892 Economic Stabilization Act ☐ 210 Land Condemnation 441 Voting 510 Motions to Vacate ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation 3 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 893 Environmental Matters 442 Employment 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. or Defendant) ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act 220 Foreclosure Sentence ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 3 895 Freedom of Information ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus: Security Act 26 USC 7609 240 Torts to Land Accommodations 530 General Act 900Appeal of Fee Determination 245 Tort Product Liability IMMIGRATION 444 Welfare 535 Death Penalty 290 All Other Real Property 445 Amer. w/Disabilities 540 Mandamus & Other 462 Naturalization Application Under Equal Access Employment 550 Civil Rights 463 Habeas Corpus to Justice 446 Amer. w/Disabilities 555 Prison Condition Alien Detainee 950 Constitutionality of 465 Other Immigration State Statutes Other 440 Other Civil Rights Actions Appeal to District Judge from V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) ☐ 2 Removed from Original  $\square$  3 Remanded from ☐ 4 Reinstated or ☐ 5 Magistrate Appellate Court Proceeding State Court (specify) Judgment Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause: Discrimination Claim VII. REQUESTED IN **DEMAND \$** CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 250,000.00 JURY DEMAND: ☐ No **COMPLAINT:** VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See inst uctions): DOCKET NUMBER IF ANY JUDGE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD DATE

04/04/2011 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

### Case 2:11-cv-023764 Filed Sparresedt Straffiled COAL/025/11 Page 2 of 12

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to assignment to appropriate calendar.	o be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 4 Eddington Lane, Willingboro, NJ (	
Address of Defendant: 32 Runway Road, Levittown, PA 190	054
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Levittown, PA	
(Use Reverse Side Fo	r Additional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1)	(a)) Yes□ No□
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No 🖾
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:  Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	e year previously terminated action in this court?
, , ,	Yes□ No 🖺
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior	
action in this court?	<sub>Yes</sub> □ <sub>No</sub> \(\frac{\text{\tint{\text{\tint{\text{\tin}}}}}}}}}}}} \end{\text{\texi}\text{
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlie	
terminated action in this court?	Yes No
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil ri	ghts case filed by the same individual?  Yes \(\sim_{\text{No}} \otimes_{\text{No}} \otimes_{\text{No}}
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases;
1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please
	specify)
7. 衽 Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. D Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases	
(Please specify)	
ARBITRATION CEF (Check Appropriate	e Category)
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge a	
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	the tener, the damages received and are the tener of the tener of the tener of
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DATE:	Au IN
Attorney-at-Law  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if	Attorney I.D.# there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case in not related to any case now pending	or within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	or many vac your provides you manned active in this court
DATE: HYII	60643
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
CIV. 609 (6/08)	

# Case 2:11-cv-02373-RB Document 1 Filed 04/05/11 Page 3 of 12 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Date	Attorney-at	-law	Attorney for	<del>-</del>
April 4, 2011	Marc A. Weinber	g, Esquire	Plaintiff, Oscar Pee	ples
(f) Standard Managemer	at – Cases that do not f	fall into any one o	f the other tracks.	(X)
(e) Special Management commonly referred to the court. (See revers management cases.)	<ul> <li>Cases that do not far as complex and that is se side of this form for</li> </ul>	need special or int	tense management by	( )
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.			( )	
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.				( )
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.			( )	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.				( )
SELECT ONE OF THE	E FOLLOWING CAS	SE MANAGEMI	ENT TRACKS:	
plaintiff shall complete a filing the complaint and s side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant	Case Management Trerve a copy on all defendence event that a defendent shall, with its first apes, a Case Management	ack Designation landants. (See § 1:0 lant does not agropearance, submit t Track Designation	etion Plan of this court, count Form in all civil cases at the to 33 of the plan set forth on the reee with the plaintiff regarding to the clerk of court and serve on Form specifying the track to	ime of everse ag said on the
PRESTIGE DELIVERY	SYSTEMS, INC.	: NO.		
v.		:		
OSCAR PEEPLES		: CIVIL ACTI	ON	

215-576-6288

FAX Number

Mweinberg@saffwein.com

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

215-576-0100

Telephone

#### Case 2:11-cv-02373-RB Document 1 Filed 04/05/11 Page 4 of 12

#### Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

# SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OSCAR PEEPLES

4 Eddington Lane

Willingboro, NJ 08046 :

NO.

:

PRESTIGE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, INC.

32 Runway Road

Levittown, PA 19054

v.

#### **COMPLAINT**

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a claim brought individually by Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, who was discriminated at his place of employment based upon his age and race. The improper conduct included deferential treatment in regards to workload and promotions before being wrongfully summarily discharged. As a result of these charges of discrimination, Plaintiff alleges violation of various state and federal statutes including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 42 U.S.C. Section 2000E et seq. as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the Age Discrimination Employment Act of 1967 as well as the common law statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 2. Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, by and through his counsel, Marc A. Weinberg, Esquire seeks a sum in excess of \$100,000.00 in damages upon a cause of action whereof the following is a statement.
- 3. This action for declaratory, monetary and other appropriate relief is brought by Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, to redress intentional violations by Defendant of rights secured to the Plaintiff by the laws of the United States and the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by 28 U.S.C. Section 1331 and Section 1343, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000E-5(f)(3) which provides for original jurisdiction of Plaintiff's claims arising under the laws of the United States and over actions to secure equitable and other relief.
- 5. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims under the statutory and common law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to supplemental jurisdiction as codified by 28 U.S.C. Section 1367 as Plaintiff was working for Prestige Delivery Systems, Inc. located at 32 Runway Road in Levittown, Pennsylvania 19054.
- 6. Named Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, has exhausted all administrative remedies, having filed timely complaints of racial discrimination and wrongful discharge with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission as required in the individual statutes and has taken all other necessary action to bring this matter before this Court.

#### VENUE

- 7. All actions complained of herein have taken place within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and involve a Plaintiff who was employed within its jurisdictional limits and a Defendant who performs business within its jurisdictional limits.
- 8. Venue is accordingly invoked pursuant to the dictates of 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(B) and 1391©.

#### **PARTIES**

9. Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, is an African American male citizen of the United States

and a resident of the State of New Jersey residing at 4 Eddington Lane in Willingboro, New Jersey 08046 and was at all times relevant hereto an employee of Defendant.

- 10. At the time of filing, Plaintiff's age is of the protected class.
- 11. Defendant Prestige Delivery Systems, Inc. was a corporation or other duly authorized legal entity operating in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a transportation company.
- 12. Prior to Defendant's involvement with Plaintiff, a contract existed between Plaintiff and Staples to perform delivery related services.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS OF NAMED PLAINTIFF

- 13. Plaintiff, Oscar Peeples, contracted with Defendant as a delivery driver and began service with the Defendant in May of 2004 after Staples retained Prestige to perform delivery related services.
- 14. Plaintiff continued work as delivery driver with Defendant for which he was qualified in every respect.
  - 15. Plaintiff was under a delivery contract with Defendant.
- 16. Plaintiff was under the direct supervision and control of the above-referenced Defendant company who controlled Plaintiff's workload as well as instructed him on job related duties and responsibilities.
- 17. Defendant exerted control over Plaintiff's work, with Plaintiff being required to seek advice and counsel from them with regard to specific work related issues.
- 18. When Plaintiff began working with the Defendant, Plaintiff had four separate routes for delivery service.
  - 19. After Prestige was retained by Staples to perform delivery related services,

Plaintiff was told by Prestige that Plaintiff made too much money. Subsequently, Prestige employee Tony continually called Plaintiff "boy" as well as his drivers.

- 20. Throughout the course of his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff had contact with managers of the Defendant, namely John (last name unknown) and Tony (last name unknown) who called Plaintiff "boy" even though Plaintiff advised the term was offensive to Plaintiff.
- 21. During Tony's tenure with Defendant, Plaintiff heard him say that he was "getting rid of the old drivers."
- 22. Constantly, John would call Plaintiff "boy" as well as his drivers on a weekly basis.
- 23. The day after bringing these incidents to the attention of Defendant's management, all of Plaintiff's assigned routes were taken from him and he was told that he could only have one route.
- 24. After complaining of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff's last route was taken from him and provided to Greg Fink.
- 25. After being advised that Plaintiff could only maintain one route, the other three routes were provided to other drivers without any legitimate business related requirement.
- 26. One of Plaintiff's routes were given to Greg Fink who had a total of seven routes at that time.
- 27. Greg Fink is a Caucasian male approximately 38 years of age who had been working for Defendant for 2 years less than Plaintiff.
- 28. There was no reasonable basis for the termination of Plaintiff as a result of any work product and/or job performance and skills. Rather, said termination was the direct result of discriminatory and retaliatory action on the part of the Defendant and its managers.

- 29. During the course and scope of Plaintiff's tenure with the Defendant, Plaintiff was repeatedly denied financial opportunity and ability to work in a facility free of age and racial prejudices by Defendant and its representatives.
- 30. Plaintiff, on at least two occasions, was advised that Plaintiff would be entitled to receive his original route back.
- 31. At no time did Plaintiff incite the actions of Defendant's representatives and furthermore requested that said conduct cease and desist.
- 32. In addition to the above, Plaintiff was retaliated against by Tony when he contacted Plaintiff's truck supplier to cancel Plaintiff's truck rental contract.
- 33. As a result of deliberate, unlawful and malicious actions of the Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered a loss of enjoyment, benefits, earnings and earning potential.

#### **COUNT I - RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 33 as though fully set forth herein.
- 35. Defendants violated the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 42 U.S.C. Section 2000E et seq. in that they discriminated against Plaintiff on account of his race and overall harassing conduct by inter alia:
  - 1. Treating him differently than his Caucasian peers;
  - 2. Retaliating and wrongfully discharging Plaintiff from employment on or about October 2009 after Plaintiff advised his manager that he did not appreciate being called "boy";
  - 3. Failing to allow Plaintiff a fair opportunity to be promoted when he was appropriately credentialed and a valuable and hard working employee; and

- 4. Failing to allow Plaintiff to continue with employment when he was appropriately credentialed and a valuable and hard working employee of the Defendant.
- 5. Allowing Caucasian employees such as Fink the opportunity to carry multiple delivery routes.

#### **COUNT II - RETALIATION**

- 36. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.
- 37. Defendant violated the anti-retaliation provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000E 3a in that it retaliated against the named Plaintiff for having voiced his displeasure with how he was spoken to.
- 38. Specifically, Plaintiff was eventually stripped of his delivery routes after he told his manager that he didn't like being referred to as "boy."

#### **COUNT III - VIOLATION PHRA**

- 39. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 38 as though fully set forth herein.
- 40. Defendant violated provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and then discriminated against the named Plaintiff as evidenced by inter alia:
  - Establishing and maintaining a general policy of allowing disparaging conduct and treatment to occur in the course and confine of the work day including failure to discipline improper conduct;
  - b. Allowing a manager to continually harass Plaintiff regarding his race;
  - c. Allowing racial and improper conduct to occur with the acquiescence and

- acknowledgment of Defendant's management;
- d. Making employment decisions based on employee's race or ethnicity.

#### **COUNT IV**

- 41. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 40 as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. Defendant violated provisions of the Age Discrimination Employment Act of 1967 and then discriminated against the named Plaintiff as evidenced by inter alia:
  - a. Failing to consider Plaintiff for promotions due to his age;
  - b. Promoting younger employees over Plaintiff who had less experience and had been working there for less time;
  - c. Implementing a general plan to "get rid of all the old drivers."

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

- Enter a declaratory judgment that Defendant acted as complained of herein and violated and continued to violate the rights of Plaintiff as incurred by federal and state legislative enactments;
- 2. Award to Plaintiff punitive and exemplary damages against Defendant in an adequate and proper monetary amount;
- 3. Award to Plaintiff damages for emotional distress, humiliation and loss of self esteem, the loss of life's pleasures and a loss of his ability to provide for himself and his family;
- 4. Grant the above-named Plaintiff liquidated and consequential damages in

accordance with appropriate state and federal statutes;

- 5. Grant to Plaintiff prejudgment interest in an appropriate amount;
- 6. Grant to Plaintiff costs, disbursements and reasonable attorney fees;
- 7. Grant to Plaintiff such other relief this Honorable Court deems just and proper under the circumstances of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SAFFREN & WEINBERG

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Jenkintown, PA 19046

(215) 576-0100